

Remarks

Responsive to the Requirement for Election, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, Claims 1-47, drawn to a desulfurization unit, classified in Class 422, but respectfully request reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction for the reasons given below.

Non-elected Group II, Claims 48-96, classified in Class 208, Subclass 208R, drawn to a desulfurization process, is retained in this case pending reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction.

The Requirement for Restriction is respectfully traversed. The Requirement for Restriction is based, at least in part, on grounds that the invention(s), as set forth in the Office Action, are distinct and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by the cited classifications, and that the fields of search are not the same. Both art classes referred to in the Office Action properly would be searched even if the Group II claims did not exist. Claims 48-96 claim a process to use the unit of the Group I claims.

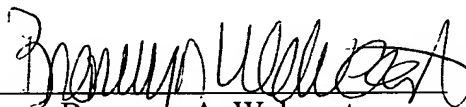
The claims of Group I, drawn to a desulfurization unit, and Group II, drawn to a desulfurization process using the unit of Group I, are sufficiently closely related in this application to be allowable in a single application. Both groups of claims clearly relate to desulfurization. Furthermore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine MPEP 803, second paragraph, which encourages combination, such as the combination of Group I and Group II claims in this application.

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The claims are so closely related in substance as to render reasonable
the withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction.

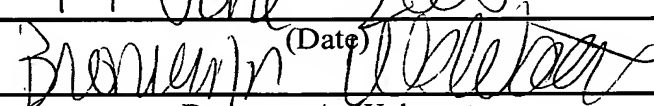
Respectfully submitted,

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<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17 June 2005 _____ (Date)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> _____ Bronwyn A. Welvaert</p>
